

STARTFORTH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL

OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR ENDING

31st DECEMBER, 1946.

Dr. Alex Leishman, M.B., Ch.B.,  
Medical Officer of Health,  
Barnard Castle.



RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF STARTFORTH.

Medical Officer of Health's Annual Report - 1946.

Barnard Castle.

5th April, 1948.

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Council,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for the Year 1946.

Throughout the year the health of the district was well up to good average.

The live Birth rate was slightly higher than the previous year. The Still birth rate slightly lower. The Infant mortality rate was very much lower. The incidence of, and the death rate from Tuberculosis was about the same. I regret to say, however, that the death rate was higher than the previous year. This resulted very largely from Diseases of the Heart and Blood Vessels from which cause there were 15 more deaths this year. I would point however, that a large number of these deaths was amongst very old people.

During the year there was a very marked reduction in the number of cases of notifiable diseases (other than tuberculosis) - 40 compared with 98.

I must once again express my indebtedness to the Members of the Council and to their Clerk for their help and forbearance in the carrying out of my duties.

Statistics of the Area.

Area (Acres)	96305
Population (estimated)	4161
Number of inhabited houses	1265
Rateable Value	£55112
Sum represented by a penny rate	£229

The chief industry of the Area is Agriculture, principally milk production and sheep farming.

Vital Statistics.

Live Births:

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate	43	36	79
Illegitimate	5	1	6
	48	37	85
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Live Birth Rate 20.4 per 1000 of the population.  
Corresponding rate for England and Wales 19.1 and for the 148 smaller Towns 21.3.



Still Births

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	1	0	1
Illegitimate	1	0	1
	2	0	2

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Still Birth Rate per 1000 births 2.9 or .48 per 1000 of the population

Corresponding rate for England and Wales . 53  
and for 148 smaller Towns .59

Deaths.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
	38	32	70
Death rate per 1000 of the population	15.8		
" " for England and Wales	11.5		
" " for 148 Smaller Towns	11.7		

Deaths of Infants under 1 year.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	0	3	3
Illegitimate	0	0	0
	0	3	3

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Death Rate of Infants under 1 year :

All Infants per 1000 Live Births	35
England and Wales	43
148 Smaller Towns	37

Causes of Death

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Tuberoulosis	1	1	2
Cancer	6	4	10
Diabetes	1	0	1
Intracranial Vascular Lesions	4	1	5
Heart Diseases	12	13	25
Other Diseases of the Circulatory System	3	3	6
Bronchitis	1	0	1
Pneumonia	1	1	2
Nephritis	2	2	4
Premature Birth	0	1	1
Infantile Diseases	1	1	2
Violent Causes	3	1	4
Digestive Disorders	1	2	3
All other causes	2	2	4
	38	32	70

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Incidence of Notifiable Diseases (pther than Tuberculosis).

Scarlet Fever	5
Whooping Cough	8
Measles	23
Pneumonia	3
Puerperal Pyrexia	1
	40

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### Incidence of Tuberculosis.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis	3	Other forms	1
Total		4	

There was one death from Pulmonary Tuberculosis and one from other forms.

### Diphtheria Immunisation.

The number of children who received a full course of immunisation were:-

30 under five years of age

17 between 5 and 14 years.

There is room for considerable improvement in the numbers especially amongst the under "fives".

### General Provision of Health Services.

Laboratory facilities for assistance in diagnosis of certain infectious diseases is available at the Emergency Public Health Laboratory at Northallerton.

"Nursing in the Home" is entered for efficiently by Six District Nursing Associations and their Nurses also act as Health Visitors under the County Council Scheme.

An ambulance has now been provided for cases other than infectious diseases.

### Milk Production.

There are 372 dairy farms registered in the district, 23 of these hold Designated Licences, 13 for the production of Tuberculin Tested Milk and 10 for accredited milk.

### Sanitary Circumstances in the Area.

#### Water Supply - Sewage Disposal - Housing

In the matter of these three vital services not a great deal of progress has been made during the year but there are indications that the coming year will see considerable strides being made, especially as regards housing.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Members,  
Your obedient servant,

(Sgd.) Alex Leishman,  
Medical Officer of Health.

1. The first part of the paper is devoted to a general discussion of the problem.

2. The second part is devoted to a detailed analysis of the results.

3. The third part is devoted to a discussion of the conclusions.

4. The fourth part is devoted to a discussion of the results.

5. The fifth part is devoted to a discussion of the results.

6. The sixth part is devoted to a discussion of the results.

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8. The eighth part is devoted to a discussion of the results.

9. The ninth part is devoted to a discussion of the results.

10. The tenth part is devoted to a discussion of the results.

11. The eleventh part is devoted to a discussion of the results.

12. The twelfth part is devoted to a discussion of the results.

13. The thirteenth part is devoted to a discussion of the results.

14. The fourteenth part is devoted to a discussion of the results.

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STARTFORTH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT 1946.

TO The Medical Officer of Health,  
Startforth Rural District Council.

I beg to submit my report for the year ending December 1946 with regard to work carried out as Sanitary Inspector.

Nuisance Inspections.

Total number of inspections made for nuisances	273
Nuisances found	94
Number of Informal Notices served.	2
Number of Statutory Notices served.	22

Rural Housing Survey.

The following number of houses have been inspected to the end of the year.

Bowes 63.  
Startforth 71.  
Lartington 17. Total 151 houses.

The Council have decided to adopt Byelaws under Section 6 of the the Housing Act, 1936, so that they can have the houses brought up to standard.

Closet Accommodation.

Practically the whole of the houses within the district are on the pail and privy system. A certain number have Water Carriage in the sewered areas.

Number of new W.C's erected.	4
Number of Pails converted to W.C's.	2
Number of Privies converted to W.C's	4

Scavenging.

Public scavenging is in operation in the following Parishes,  
Startforth, Lartington, Cotherstone, Romaldkirk, Mickleton, Boldron,  
Bowes and Rokeby. One Karrier Colt Scavenging vehicle and two men are operating the system. Some of the parishes are a weekly collection and some fortnightly.

The disposal of the refuse is by tipping.

Number of ashtins provided	17
Number of ashpits abolished	17



### Infectious Diseases.

I have investigated the following cases of Infectious Diseases.

Scarlet Fever 5.

All rooms occupied by patients have been promptly and efficiently fumigated with formalin.

### Factory Act, 1937.

We have on our Register 2 Factories and 15 Workshops. Inspections have been made during the year with reference to cleanliness, sanitary conveniences, temperature and ventilation.

### Dairies, Cowsheds & Milkshops.

During the year no complaints with regard to dirty milk, etc.

Number of persons registered 372.

Number of cowsheds inspected during the year 59.

The majority of the cowsheds are good structurally. The cleanliness and methods of handling and production of milk are also fairly good. The quality of the milk is good, much of which is delivered in properly capped bottles.

### Inspection and Supervision of Food.

We have 5 private slaughter houses licenced by the Council.

No slaughtering takes place at the present time. All meat inspections being carried out at the Public Abattoir at Barnard Castle.

The undermentioned food was condemned as unfit for human consumption.

Butter 14 lbs.

Cakes 144.

Yours obediently,

(Sgd) T. Ashcroft.

Sanitary Inspector.

